

AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 2, line 2, please insert the following paragraph:

--This is a continuation of co-pending application Serial No. 08/907,195 filed August 6, 1997.--

now US 6,365,731

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 36, 40, 44, and 46 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 33 as follows:

33. (Amended) A method of stripping a nucleic acid probe from a sample nucleic acid, said sample nucleic acid attached to a solid support, comprising:

- a) obtaining a solid support with a sample nucleic acid attached thereto;
- b) obtaining a nucleic acid probe, said nucleic acid probe comprising at least a first bond;
- c) admixing said nucleic acid probe with said solid support to allow association of said nucleic acid probe with said sample nucleic acid;
- d) cleaving said first bond of said nucleic acid probe with iodine, a hydroxyl ion, an enzyme, a particular wavelength of light, or temperature; and
- e) removing said nucleic acid probe from said sample nucleic acid.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 36, 40, 44, and 46 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 33 has been amended. Support for these amendments may be found in the specification, for example, at page 5, lines 23-24 and line 27; page 6, lines 1-2; and page 12, lines 14-15. Therefore, claims 1-35, 37-39, 41-43, 45, and 47 are presently pending. A copy of the amended